

Minutes of the
Docent Council Board Meeting
Santa Barbara Museum of Art
Date: September 9, 2015

Present: Molora Vadnais, Joan Dewhirst, Gail Stichler, Denise Klassen, Mei Chih Ho, Christine Holland, Teda Pilcher, Mary Ellen Hoffman, Ralph Wilson, Barbara Boyd, Monica Babich, Loree Gold, Vikki Duncan, Patsy Hicks, Rachael Kriepps

CALL TO ORDER:

President, Joan Dewhirst

Joan called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. Minutes of the Double Board Meeting of June 3, 2015 were approved.

Joan said this will be a special year. Construction is beginning, and it could be a bit bumpy, but we will get through it together and the Museum will be a better place.

Joan gave the final financial report for the Weisman Collection Bus Trip on June 1, 2015, with net income of \$241.00.

Refreshments before Docent Council Meetings will be served in the Museum Café or the Family Resource Center, as the Provisional class meets in the Luria Activities Center on Wednesdays. Nicola Gherson and Christy Close agreed to serve as Refreshments Coordinators for this year, but ask for a third colleague. Loree Gold volunteered. Providing refreshments has been simplified, with new sign-up sheets following discussion with Gail Stichler and Denise Klassen, the 2015 Refreshments Coordinator. Joan asked that the Board provide refreshments for the first Docent Council Meeting as is customary, and for the second meeting, as there is no newly graduated class to provide for that meeting. Director of Education Patsy Hicks said that the Education Department would provide refreshments at the first meeting in appreciation of the Docent Council. The Board will provide refreshments at the second meeting.

The November Board Meeting is moved to Tuesday, November 10th, at 10:30 a.m. in the upper-level conference room.

Joan reported on summer meetings of the Museum's 75th Anniversary Committee. An Anniversary Community Day and reception will be held on Sunday, May 15th, 2016, and a gala fund-raiser will be held in September 2016. The curators are writing a 75th anniversary book including selected acquisitions, and Directory Larry Feinberg is writing an introduction on Museum history since the 50th anniversary.

The Docent Council will be involved via the Community Speakers Program (CSP). Kathryn Padgett and Shirley Waxman will create a CSP PowerPoint including works on Eik Kahng's checklist for the anniversary book. The CSP Directors and Director of Education Patsy Hicks met and agreed on a wide spectrum of images, and stories of founders and donors.

Given the success of the CSP from March through June, 2015, with 250 people attending presentations [details in the President's report, attached], the CSP is expanding and submitted a list of equipment needs in the amount of \$2,000. While the possibility of sharing PowerPoint Team equipment was raised, Patsy Hicks reported that the Capital Campaign said yes to funding the purchase. A motion passed unanimously to accept the gift from the Capital Campaign, and to revisit the topic of sharing equipment at a later meeting if a budget presented by the PowerPoint Team for equipment were to require additional funding.

Joan Dewhirst, Kathryn Padgett, and Paul Guido are preparing to attend the 2105 National Docent Symposium in Cincinnati, Ohio, September 16th - 20th. Kathryn will be the lead presenter of our Docent Council's Evaluation Process at a break-out session with attendees from over 145 institutions.

[See President's Report, attached.]

BOARD REPORTS

Vice President, Gail Stichler

A bus trip to the Getty Center is planned for Tuesday, October 20, to see the "Power and Pathos" exhibition. Curator Dr. Kenneth Lapatin has agreed to give a tour to our group. Twenty-four people already are signed up.

On Monday, October 5th, at 3:00 p.m., artists Dane Goodman and Keith Puccinelli will give our docents a tour of their exhibit at Westmont Ridley-Tree Art Museum in Montecito.

After acknowledging the Refreshments Committee; Gail reported that Denise Klassen, Mike Ramey, Christy Close, and Christine Holland have agreed to serve on the Social Committee.

The annual Holiday Party will be on Monday, December 7th, from 2:00-4:00 p.m., with the location to be determined.

Pma Tregenza is proposing a Saturday bus to be lead by artist John Hillis Sanders to visit the Long Beach Museum of Art and the Museum at California State University at Long Beach, and with the possibly of also visiting artist studios.

Gail is exploring a spring trip to New York City, and a visit to the new Broad Museum in Los Angeles.

[See Vice President's Report, attached.]

Secretary, Vikki Duncan:

Nicola Gherson has agreed to be the corresponding secretary, sending notes to docents and thanks to speakers at our Docent Council Meetings. Vikki asked that Board Members pass on to Joan and Vikki and Nicola the names of docents to whom we might send notes of encouragement and support. Faith Henkin has received cards of condolence; Pma Tregenza and Ann Robinson were named for cards of support.

Treasurer, Denise Klassen

Denise submitted a Treasurer's Proposed Budget for 2015-2016, as well as statements of checking and savings through August 31st, 2015. The checking account balance as of August 31, 2015 was \$9,534.41. The savings account balance on August 24, 2015, was \$10,016.12.

The proposed budget for [service year] 2015-2016 was approved unanimously following a motion to allocate an additional \$350.00 to fund a stipend for Provisional Chair service to the Provisional Co-Chair trainee. A Board member commented that the revised format of the Treasurers' Proposed Budget was very clear.

[See Treasurer's Proposed Budget for 2015-2016, and monthly Treasurers Report, attached.]

Membership, Mei Chih Ho

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Mei Chih reported three docent resignations: Stephanie Amon, Marc Brody, and Michelle Milakovich. Amanda McIntyre has become a Sustainer, and Efrem Ostrow is continuing as a Sustainer. There are 67 active docents this year. Checks for dues from six Sustainers are outstanding.

[See Docent Activity Status as of Sept. 2105, attached.]

Adult Teams, Christine Holland and Teda Pilcher

Christine gave an overview of summer activity: A new Highlights team was formed in the absence of a newly graduated Provisional class, and Maholy-Nagy opened in mid-July. Board members and the Education Department met, and using the guidelines prepared by Molora Vadnais, created new teams and got team assignments out to docents. There have been a few adjustments, but no complaints. Tour dates have been established through March 31st, 2016. Additional docents were needed and have joined Highlights. Fall calendars with docent names are set. Teda has prepared Master Calendars and sent them to Rachel. Christine also has compiled Red Book statistics for July and August. Christine has called a meeting of Adult Team Leaders on September 21st to review requirements including evaluations, and will host at her home. The Community Speakers Bureau is presenting to more community groups with additional topics. Numbers for Museum visitors and tours were as follows: 283 on 47 tours (6.0 per tour average) in June; 449 on 62 tours (7.3 per tour average) in July, and 414 on 56 tours (7.4 per tour average) in August. June was a difficult touring month due to gallery closures: six Adult tours were cancelled, and 5 tours had no visitors. There were 3 "no visitor" tours in July, and 2 in August, as well as a docent-missed tour.

After Maholy-Nagy closes (September 27), there will be two special exhibitions in three months: Latin American Photography *Looking In, Looking Out* (October 17, 2015 - February 4, 2016) [subsequently extended to March 20, 2016], and Halley and Ferrer (November 8, 2105 - February 21, 2016) [subsequently extended to March 13, 2016]. Four focus teams and the Highlights teams, but no special exhibition teams, will tour until Puja and Piety will open on April 16, 2016. There is talk of additional special exhibitions in 2016. As further information becomes available, docents will be notified and teams may be formed.

Christine introduced proposed changes in the times of Thursday evening Ten Talks, citing the low number of visitors at the 7:10 p.m. talks, and a positive response from the team to changing the times. A motion to change the Ten Talks times to 6:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. was carried unanimously. Joan added that being part of Talks is an opportunity to be an ambassador for the Museum.

Special exhibition tour numbers were these: in a half-month of touring in July, Maholy-Nagy had 85 visitors on 7 tours (12 per-tour-average), and in August, there were 103 visitors on 10 tours (10 per-tour-average). [See attached Adult Team Chair Reports for July and August 2015 for touring details for all teams.]

Christine has contacted an Adult Team Leader about two missed tours. No further action is being taken at this time.

[See Adult Tours Report, September 9, 2015, and Touring Statistics, attached.]

Student Teams: Sylvia Mabee

Sylvia was away; Joan presented her report. A smaller number of docents is touring students. Two teams were cited as having only four members. Monica volunteered to change teams, if it

would help. A correction confirmed that only one team, the 3rd & 4th Tuesday team, has only four members. Currently there are two Angels: Ralph Wilson and Mary Ellen Hoffman. Mei Chih Ho suggested that we ask for more Angels. Loree Gold asked in principle whether it would be fair to ask someone to move, but there was no further discussion.

The teacher open house will be on Friday, October 16. Sylvia will contact Student Team Leaders to encourage them to tell their teams and to attend. Patsy and Rachael emphasized that docents are welcome, but to confirm attendance.

Director of Education Patsy Hicks provided further information about student touring. Patsy lead [Santa Barbara Unified School] District training for teachers and said that the Education Department has received huge numbers of requests for tours as people are more energized about coming to the Museum. Rachael added that we can expect a full calendar starting in November.

Patsy also reported a change in student touring: first- and second-graders will attend Art Express sessions at Ridley Tree Education Center rather than tour at the Museum. Docents will tour third- through sixth-graders.

Provisional Chairs: Ralph Wilson and Mary Ellen Hoffman

Mary Ellen confirmed that Wendi Hunter is training to become a Co-Chair. The Provisional selection committee: Joan, Ralph, Mary Ellen, Wendi, and Rachael Kriepps, conducted 17 interviews in July. Five candidates have pulled out or cannot continue, but 3 more interviews are scheduled. With attrition around 50%, we might expect 7.5 [but 7 or 8 people] to graduate. The interviews were fun and they met some wonderful people.

The class meetings have been changed from Thursday to Wednesday so that Provisionals will have the benefit of Council Meeting lectures in line with training. The Co-Chairs are open to re-evaluating the schedule for 2017. Ralph has changed the organization but not the substance of the syllabus, which will be on the website. The focus is on student touring type activities. The class will convene on September 30th, and meet each Wednesday (except for the Veterans Day holiday, 11/11), following the school calendar.

[See Provisional Chair Report, attached.]

Evaluations: Paul Guido

Paul Guido was away. He will have a brief report at the October meeting.

Research: Barbara Boyd

Barbara thanked Ralph Wilson and Monica Babich for their on-going work and their papers on Moholy-Nagy [Ralph's on Composition, ca. 1922-23, and Monica's on No. 18, 1935], and said that she is delighted that eight papers from the class of 2014 have been posted, as well.

Webmaster: Loree Gold

Loree said that there's been very little problem. She is beginning to upload materials on the new shows: the press releases for Looking In, Looking Out are up. She also is working on missing items--papers written but never posted, and asks that those who might know of some or have written them help to get them in.

Nominations: Molora Vadnais

Molora had nothing to report.

Department Of Education: Patsy Hicks and Rachael Kriepps

Director Patsy Hicks said that the Department and Museum are trying some experimental things this year, and that acting with flexibility coupled with kindness in the spirit of Karen Sinsheimer, we will "forge ahead fearlessly." Patsy then gave an overview of upcoming plans.

Artist Jan Tichy, who spoke at the Museum about his work and his film for Things to Come, and also met with students at Dos Pueblos High School, will return with something for the 75th anniversary using our archives as a starting point.

Related to the Latin American art on view, artist Dan McCleary, and participants in Art Division, the post high school arts training program he created in the Rampart area of Los Angeles, will create a less-full version of their Frida Kahlo House installation with a working printmaking taller or workshop, coinciding with Dia de los Muertos activities and the Latin American Photography exhibition.

Mexican photographer Alejandro Cartagena will be here, spending two weeks developing a project creating a Visual Story Line of Santa Barbara, with community members drawing on their own lives and archival materials from SBMA and the Santa Barbara Historical Society and building in textile. He also will interact with classes.

UCSB Chicano Studies Professor Gerardo Aldana will return to SBMA in a project with thru lines to the Latin American exhibition. Docents are welcome to include these projects on tours.

A Piranesi print rotation will open in the print room in Ridley Tree Gallery on October 18th.

Art Express activities at Ridley Tree Education Center will have three emphases this year: Elements of Art, projects related to the Carousel of Physics by the Dos Pueblos Engineering Academy, and a third focus in the spring will tie in to Puja and Piety.

Curator Julie Joyce was named a Fellow at the American Academy in Rome and is working on a future show of 60s era Italian art. Now her attention is on the Halley show. Peter Halley will speak to docents, and Cayetano Ferrer also may talk to docents. Colin Gardner will be the first speaker at Council Meetings, talking about Moholy-Nagy in relation to Peter Halley. Following the summer presentations, the Education Department may do more film and art programming.

Docents may plan to tour Antiquities and in the Asian Galleries through October 15th. After that, objects will be removed for safe-keeping. The renovation will begin on November 14th with Breaking through The Wall. Rachael added that Asian tours will be cancelled. PowerPoint presentations by the CSP will help to keep the Asian collections in the consciousness of the public.

Opening November 8, Cayetano Ferrer's installation [*Interventions*], using fragments of antiquities and carpet remnants from Las Vegas casinos will be a study of time collapsed, and related to his contemporary completions of fragments of works from antiquity.

Peter Halley is writing materials for *Geometry of the Absurd*, and we'll have links to research. The ideas of conduits, circuits--closed/open, will be great for touring adults. The exhibition will be up till January.

Following the closure of Latin American on February 14th, there still will be rich and interesting things to tour. A distillation of every collection area except American [the collection is still traveling] will be installed in Ridley Tree. No checklist is available yet.

Puja and Piety about the religions and objects of religious practices of India will open April 16th and run through July ____. 2016.

Ralph Wilson asked about plans for the Fearing Library, as there has been informal word about a move in October. He emphasized the importance of the books being accessible to docents. Patsy replied that the Library is no longer under the Education Department, and plans are not yet known, but voiced support for housing materials in-house and advocacy for docent access.

Barbara Boyd asked whether any change in focus or research on specific pieces might be needed for the research committee to be nimble in responding to needs for upcoming shows. Patsy and Rachael replied that some items might be selected from the distillation show checklist when it becomes available, and others will be featured in the catalogue. Loree Gold added that there already may be papers, noting that many works in the Latin American show already are on the website.

Patsy replied to additional questions from Board Members:

Admission will be free till Latin American opens, but at regular price once the exhibition opens. No plans are known beyond that.

If the format of evaluations is modified this year, Patsy is confident that they will remain true and meaningful. Joan added that evaluations will be part of Paul Guido's report at the October Board Meeting.

The upload of videos of the Docent Council Meetings for on-line access is on [SBMA IT staff] Brock and Joe's triage list for action, but a time frame for their upload can't be offered.

The Museum's new website will be launched in a month to six weeks, but migrating everything to the new site will take a long time.

If we experience any difficulty with on-line ticketing, please let people know so it can be resolved in keeping with Education Department goals for visitor experience.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Joan adjourned the meeting at 11:25 p.m.

Note: Monthly Board Reports are filed behind the Minutes in the Docent Council Board Meeting Minutes Binder located in the Docent Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Vikki Duncan, Secretary